

Message Text

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ACTION SCI-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-11 FRB-03 INR-11 IO-14 NEA-14 NSAE-00

RSC-01 OPIC-12 SP-03 TRSE-00 CIEP-03 LAB-06 SIL-01

SWF-02 OMB-01 HUD-02 CEQ-02 EPA-04 AEC-11 COA-02

DODE-00 L-03 NSF-04 NSC-07 PM-07 SS-20 FEA-02 DRC-01

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R 042041Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4409

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION OECD PARIS

UNCLAS OTTAWA 2839

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, OECD, CA

SUBJECT: OECD ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE -- ACTION PROPOSAL
REGARDING POLLUTER PAYS PRINCIPLE.

REF : (A) STATE 184128

(B) STATE 184129

(C) STATE 191550

1. UPON RECEIPT REFTELS (A) AND (B), ECON COUNSELOR
DISCUSSED USG POSITION WITH NEIL HAFHEY (DIRECTOR,
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SCIENTIFIC RELATIONS AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS,

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT), GAVE HIM OPERATIVE TEXT OF ACTION PROPOSAL FAVORED BY U.S., AND EXPLAINED REASONS FOR USG APPROACH. HAFHEY, WHO CHAIRS GOC INTER-AGENCY COMMITTEE ON THIS SUBJECT, AGREED TO CONSIDER U.S. PROPOSAL AND PROVIDE REACTIONS.

2. ON SEPTEMBER 3 HAFHEY CALLED TO REPORT THAT, WHILE FORMAL GOC POSITION STILL BEING DEVELOPED, GOC IS "RATHER DISTURBED" BY TWO ASPECTS OF SITUATION: (A) TREND IN OECD WHICH SEEMS TO BE ONE OF GRADUAL RETREAT FROM FIRM AGREEMENT ON POLLUTER PAYS PRINCIPLE; AND (B) QUESTION WHETHER FURTHER OECD WORK MAY DUPLICATE GATT WORK WITH RESPECT TO TRADE-DISTORTING EFFECTS OF EXCEPTIONS TO PRINCIPLE. (GOC CONSIDERS TRADE-DISTORTING EFFECTS TO BE THE POINT OF GREATEST CONCERN.) HAVING MADE THIS POINT HAFHEY WENT ON TO SAY THAT GOC IS NOT UNREALISTIC AND RECOGNIZES NEED TO TAKE PRESSURES FOR EXCEPTIONS INTO ACCOUNT. GOC WILL PROBABLY GO ALONG WITH ACTION PROPOSAL ALONG LINES OF U.S. DRAFT OR SECRETARIAT PAPER BUT WITHOUT ENTHUSIASM. (ECON COUNSELOR CONFIRMED PER REFTEL C THAT U.S. STILL HAS SOME SERIOUS RESERVATIONS ABOUT SECRETARIAT TEXT AND INTENDS TO CONTINUE TO PRESS ITS OWN PROPOSAL.)

3. HAFHEY SAID FINAL GOC POSITION WILL NOT BE DECIDED UNTIL END OF THIS WEEK. LAVER OF CANADIAN PERMDEL IS SITTING IN ON DISCUSSIONS IN OTTAWA THIS WEEK AND WILL RETURN TO PARIS ON WEEKEND FULLY INFORMED. HE SHOULD BE AVAILABLE TO CONSULT WITH US DEL ON SEPTEMBER 9 OR 10. ONE SPECIFIC QUESTION ON WHICH HE MAY SEEK CLARIFICATION IS U.S. VIEW OF RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SELECTIVE APPROACH AND ADVANCE NOTIFICATION (SEE ESPECIALLY PARA F, REFTEL B).
JOHNSON

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